

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 24, 2000

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2933

**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Dutra
(Chair), Baldwin, Correa, Dickerson, Havice, and Nakano)**

March 23, 2000

An act to ~~amend Section 73.6 of the Military and Veterans Code,~~ relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2933, as amended, Committee on Veterans Affairs. ~~Inspector General for Veterans Affairs—Cal-Vet Loan Program.~~

Existing law provides for farm and home purchase benefits for qualifying veterans under the Veterans' Farm and Home Purchase Act of 1974, and subsequent acts, which are collectively referred to as the Cal-Vet Loan Program.

This bill would declare legislative intent to engage in a comprehensive review of the efficiency of the Cal-Vet Loan Program.

~~Existing law authorizes the Inspector General for Veterans Affairs to receive communications from any individual who believes he or she may have information that warrants a review or investigation of a veterans program, and, among other things, in order to respond to any allegation, requires the establishment of a toll-free telephone number to report alleged wrongdoing regarding veterans programs.~~

~~This bill would specify that the allegation to be responded to shall be one of improper activity.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 73.6 of the Military and Veterans~~

2 ~~SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares~~
3 ~~that the processing of Cal-Vet loans is less efficient and~~
4 ~~less prompt than the processing of comparable loans in~~
5 ~~both the private sector and in other publicly sponsored~~
6 ~~loan programs.~~

7 ~~(b) The Legislature further finds and declares that the~~
8 ~~Cal-Vet Loan Program is the subject of ongoing~~
9 ~~restructuring and reform efforts worthy of legislative~~
10 ~~oversight.~~

11 ~~(c) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to~~
12 ~~engage in a comprehensive review of the efficiency of the~~
13 ~~Cal-Vet Loan Program.~~

14 ~~Code is amended to read:~~

15 ~~73.6. (a) The inspector general may receive~~
16 ~~communications from any individual, including, but not~~
17 ~~limited to, a participant in a farm and home purchase~~
18 ~~program or a resident of a California veterans home, who~~
19 ~~believes he or she may have information that warrants a~~
20 ~~review or investigation of a veterans program that is~~
21 ~~supported by the state. The identity of the person~~
22 ~~providing the information shall be held as confidential by~~
23 ~~the inspector general and may be disclosed only to the~~
24 ~~Governor, any member of the board, any Member of the~~
25 ~~Legislature, or the secretary, as the inspector general~~
26 ~~deems appropriate and in the furtherance of his or her~~
27 ~~duties.~~

28 ~~(b) In order to properly respond to any allegation of~~
29 ~~improper activity, the inspector general shall establish a~~
30 ~~toll-free public telephone number for the purpose of~~
31 ~~identifying any alleged wrongdoing regarding veterans~~
32 ~~programs. This telephone number shall be posted at~~
33 ~~every California veterans home and throughout all~~

1 ~~department and county veterans service offices, in clear~~
2 ~~view of all veterans home residents, employees, and the~~
3 ~~public. In addition, the telephone number shall be issued~~
4 ~~to every participant of a home purchase program. When~~
5 ~~deemed appropriate by the inspector general, he or she~~
6 ~~shall initiate a review or investigation of any alleged~~
7 ~~wrongdoing. However, any request to conduct an~~
8 ~~investigation shall be in writing. The request shall be~~
9 ~~confidential and is not subject to disclosure under the~~
10 ~~Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with~~
11 ~~Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government~~
12 ~~Code).~~

13 ~~(c) The identity of the person providing the~~
14 ~~information that initiated the review or investigation~~
15 ~~shall not be disclosed without that person's written~~
16 ~~permission, except to a law enforcement agency in the~~
17 ~~furtherance of its duties.~~

